

# THE MILITANT

One hundred years  
‘on the right side of history’  
— Socialist Workers Party Conference  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 25 JULY 15, 2019

## Join ‘Militant’ in fight against censorship in Florida prisons

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Florida prison system’s Literature Review Committee upheld the ban on four more issues of the *Militant* June 20, despite the fact it hadn’t yet received the paper’s appeal of the impoundments. They had previously agreed to extend the deadline for the appeal to June 28. In response to the *Militant*’s protest, they claim they can still give “full and *de novo* review and consideration” to the appeal.

The committee did not even inform the *Militant* of its rulings. Instead, the *Militant* learned about the committee’s decisions to uphold the bans on issues nos. 19, 20, 22 and 23 from the paper’s subscribers behind bars. The status of the ban on no. 18 is unclear.

The *Militant*’s attorney, David Goldstein, sent in the socialist news-weekly’s appeal as planned. The number of bans by local prison wardens upheld by the committee now stands at five of the last nine issues.

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## UN committee backs Puerto Rico fight for independence

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

UNITED NATIONS — This year’s U.N. decolonization hearings on the status of Puerto Rico June 24 reflected the growing anger at Washington and the colonial government among millions of Puerto Ricans on the island and in the U.S. over the crisis in jobs, health care, housing and other vital necessities. That social and economic catastrophe continues to worsen nearly two years after Hurricane Maria ravaged the island.

The U.N. committee approved a resolution, sponsored by Cuba’s revolutionary government, backing the Puerto Rican people’s right to self-determination and independence. Some 50 people testified, all but a handful arguing in favor of independence for the Caribbean nation, which has been under Washington’s boot since U.S. troops invaded in 1898.

Speakers universally condemned the U.S.-appointed Financial Oversight and Management Board, im-

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## Liberals’ Green New Deal is trap for working class

Modeled on Roosevelt’s WWII attacks on unions



Above, June 1943 *Militant* reports on miners’ strike during World War II. Left, January 1944 paper reports on Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal push for labor conscription, echoed in liberals’ “Green New Deal.” Photo shows SWP, Teamster leaders on way to prison for leading labor opposition to FDR’s war drive.

BY TERRY EVANS

One feature of capitalist politics in the U.S. is the entry of a layer of self-proclaimed socialists — like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — who see their mission to rebrand the Democratic Party to better ensnarl workers and to reform and defend capitalist rule while “helping” the working class.

Millions of workers today are looking for something different, as they face an economic and social crisis resulting from the punishing impact of the pro-imperialist, pro-war and pro-business policies of both parties that have boosted profits.

Ocasio-Cortez promotes a “Green New Deal,” backed by many of the Democrats running for president, as the central vehicle to accomplish this.

## Railroad workers need to fight for workers control over trains, safety

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Union Pacific freight train containing cars carrying military munitions, including hand grenades, bombs and highly volatile ammonium nitrate, commonly

### AS I SEE IT

used in explosives, from Nebraska to the U.S. Army Depot in Nevada, derailed June 19 as it traveled alongside US Interstate 80 near Elko. While none of the cars carrying munitions hit the ground, the crash did release aluminum oxide, a skin irritant. Sixty

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## SWP candidates step up campaigning, demand ‘US rulers’ hands off Iran!’



Left, UE; right, Militant/Hilda Cuzco  
Left, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council Malcolm Jarrett joins Wabtec workers picket May 17. Alyson Kennedy, at right, campaigns door to door in West Dallas in 2018. Two SWP campaigners will travel, speak across country.

BY JANET POST

Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters across the country are stepping up efforts to introduce the party, its working-class program and activities to workers and youth coming out of the party-sponsored 2019 International Active Workers Conference held June 13-15.

To strengthen the party’s campaigns, Alyson Kennedy, its 2016 presidential candidate and 2019 candidate for mayor of Dallas, and Malcolm Jarrett, the SWP candidate this year for Pittsburgh City Council, will

visit different areas to join in campaigning on workers’ doorsteps, at local union strike picket lines, march in social protests, talk to the press and speak together at public meetings.

“Everywhere we go we’ll discuss why working people need to speak out against the U.S. rulers’ war threats against Iran, Venezuela and Cuba,” Jarrett said. Party candidates across the country have recently been participating in demonstrations calling for “U.S. hands off Iran!” and “End the sanctions!”

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She says, “We are facing a national crisis,” a catastrophe from fossil fuels and “climate change,” that requires a massive strengthening of the capitalist state to address it. And, she adds, the massive mobilization it would mount would create jobs.

But for working people the main question about the plan is not the “green” description in its title, but its model

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## G-20 summit reveals ‘liberal world order’ is coming apart

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Group of 20 annual summit in Osaka, Japan, June 28-29 drew government leaders from the U.S., Germany, Japan, China, Russia, all the main imperialist and other large capitalist countries. It reflected the deep competition over trade between

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# Iran book fair: US embargo hits pocket cash, not political interest

BY TONY HUNT

TEHRAN, Iran — The 32nd Tehran International Book Fair took place at the large Mosalla mosque complex here April 24-May 4. Hundreds of thousands from around the country attended amid rising U.S. imperialist military threats, economic sanctions and a declining currency, which are squeezing living standards of working people and the middle classes.

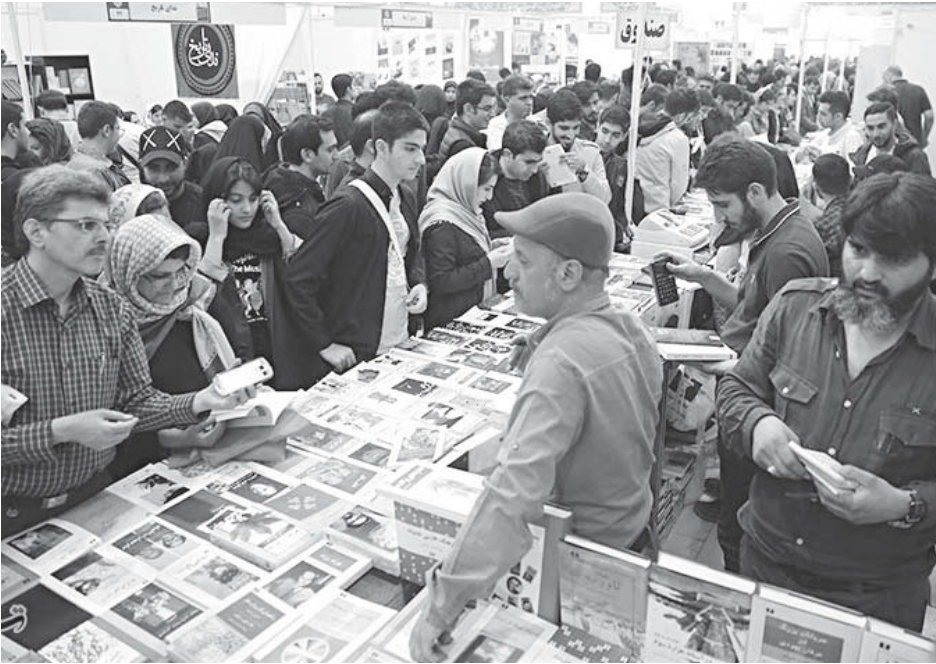
The largest section housed some 2,400 Iranian publishers of Farsi titles. The international section, with around 800 publishers, displayed books in Arabic and English as well as other languages. This year’s country of honor was China.

Pathfinder Books from the United

Kingdom, which has participated since 1992, sold more than 300 titles by revolutionary working-class leaders. Its best-seller was *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., with 61 copies sold. *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*, with an introduction by Barnes, and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters were the newest titles on its shelves.

Fifty-three Pathfinder titles translated into Farsi, Iran’s most widely used language, were on display by Talaye Porsoo publishers, which sold over 700 books. Top sellers included *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels (104 copies) and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* (59 copies). Talaye Porsoo also featured two other books by Barnes: *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

A new title, Talaye Porsoo’s translation of *In Defense of the US Working Class*, was launched at a book-fair event hosted by the Association of Women Publishers. Other Iranian publishers displaying Farsi translations of Pathfinder titles included Golazin, which publishes *Problems of Women’s Liberation* and *Woman’s Evolution*, both by Evelyn Reed, as well as *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Reed, Waters, and Joseph Hansen. Titles on the fight for women’s emancipation were popular at both the Talaye Porsoo



M. Hossein Movahedinejad

Some 3,200 publishers participated in Tehran book fair, attracting hundreds of thousands from across Iran. Over 300 books by revolutionary working-class leaders were sold at Pathfinder booth. Talaye Porsoo, which displayed 53 Pathfinder titles in Farsi, sold over 700 books.

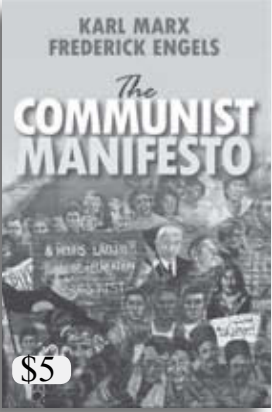
and Pathfinder booths.

“I wish I could buy all these books,” said a student after browsing the Pathfinder shelves, “but I have to watch my pocket.” She left with *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, one of several titles on the Cuban Revolution sold here. A young woman from a rural area in north Iran bought *Is Biology Woman’s Destiny?* by Reed, *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by Waters, and *Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Engels. She said she’d been unable to pursue postgraduate studies abroad “because of the sanctions.”

Several visitors to the fair said they were interested in socialism or Marx-

ism. Many asked if it was “legal” to sell these kinds of books in the U.S. and U.K. Volunteers at the booth responded by showing them photos in books of such titles being sold on the streets or at workers’ doorsteps.

The world capitalist crisis, and by early May the nearly three-quarters fall of the rial, the local currency, have made a big dent in the budgets of most Iranians, including fairgoers, since Washington reimposed sanctions last year. One student came to the Pathfinder stand carrying a bag of books he’d bought with the “Bon” card, a government subsidy for students. “Last year,” he said, “I was able to fill up three bags.”



*The Communist Manifesto* explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)



*Mass protests in Hong Kong block hated law*

*Two million people jammed Hong Kong’s streets June 16 forcing the government, and the rulers in Beijing, to back down from pushing through an extradition bill. The ‘Militant’ covers struggles by workers, students in China and growing rivalry between Beijing and Washington.*



Reuters/Thomas Peter

Mass demonstrations in Hong Kong in June forced government to drop extradition bill.

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## Campaign with the Socialist Workers Party candidates!

**California**  
Dennis Richter, Los Angeles City Council  
Joel Britton, Mayor of San Francisco

**Florida**  
Anthony Dutrow, Miami City Commission

**Georgia**  
Rachele Fruit, Atlanta School Board

**Kentucky**  
Amy Husk, Governor  
Samir Hazboun, Lieutenant Governor

**Minnesota**  
David Rosenfeld, St. Paul City Council

**New Jersey**  
Lea Sherman, State Assembly  
Candace Wagner, State Assembly

**New York**  
Seth Galinsky, New York City Public Advocate  
Ved Dookhun, Mayor of Troy  
Lawrence Quinn, Troy City Council

**Pennsylvania**  
Osborne Hart, Mayor of Philadelphia  
John Staggs, Philadelphia City Council  
Malcolm Jarrett, Pittsburgh City Council

**Washington**  
Henry Clay Dennison, Seattle City Council

See directory on page 8 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

## The Militant

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

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# SWP steps up campaigning

Continued from front page

“We’ll be explaining the need for working people to break from the Democrats and Republicans, the two parties that represent the interests of the ruling rich and their political system,” Kennedy told the *Militant*.

At the Statehouse in Trenton, New Jersey, Lea Sherman and Candace Wagner, SWP candidates for New Jersey General Assembly, joined a rally June 27 demanding driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants, sponsored by the immigrant rights group Cosecha. “Winning licenses serves to unite us. And it puts us in a stronger position to fight for amnesty for the 11 million immigrants without papers so we can organize and rebuild a fighting union movement,” Wagner, a union rail worker, told fellow protesters.

The same day members of the Communications Workers of America who gathered at the Statehouse to lobby government officials invited Cosecha members to speak on the fight for licenses. “We’ll continue to fight until we win licenses for everyone,” Norma Morales told some 100 people from both organizations. “We’re standing united, without papers and without fear,” added Caritina Hernandez. They got enthusiastic applause.

Sherman and Wagner will join Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for New York City public advocate, at a campaign program at the opening of the new SWP hall at 3600 Bergenline

in Union City July 6.

Rachele Fruit launched her campaign as SWP candidate for the Atlanta Board of Education at a Militant Labor Forum June 28. Two days earlier she joined an action called by the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition demanding, “U.S. hands off Iran!” and “End U.S. sanctions now!”

There she met Thomas Proenza, a former graduate student and member of Democratic Socialists of America. He said he wanted to donate to the campaign, bought a subscription to the *Militant* and got a copy of the *Militant* supplement “Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran.” It describes the working-class-led protests that swept 90 cities and towns across Iran early last year and presents the stakes for the working class in the wars and upheavals sweeping the region today.

Fruit and supporters campaigned door to door in Calhoun, an industrial town north of Atlanta June 22, where she met Moraima Thomas and her husband, Hector Ramirez, a truck driver from the Dominican Republic. When Fruit explained that the Cuban Revolution made health care a human right and not a commodity available only to those with enough money to pay, Thomas said, “I can tell you from personal experience that’s not how it is in the Dominican Republic.”

They subscribed to the *Militant* and bought three books, *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* and *Are They*



Militant/Candace Wagner

Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for New Jersey General Assembly, and Francisco Molina with driver’s license placard at protest for licenses for immigrants in Trenton, New Jersey, June 27.

*Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

## Join the SWP campaign

Kennedy and Jarrett will kick off their national campaign trips in Louisville, Kentucky, July 12-14. They will join Amy Husk and Samir Hazboun, SWP candidates for governor and lieutenant governor in that state, campaigning in eastern Kentucky coal country, in Louisville and in southern Indiana. Supporters of the campaign are organizing both a public meeting and a barbecue for July 13.

## Socialist Workers Party 2019 campaign program

*The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:*

**UNIONS** Support workers’ struggles to organize and strengthen unions, to use union power to defend ourselves and all working people. *One union for all drivers* — taxi, rideshare and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

**AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS** in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

**JOBS** Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

**OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS** US hands off Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

**CUBA — AN EXAMPLE** End the embargo against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

**HEALTH CARE FOR ALL** Fight for universal, government-guaranteed health care and retirement income for all.

**ABORTION** Defend women’s right

to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

**ISRAEL & PALESTINE** For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred, and murderous violence.

**LAND AND LABOR** Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases and prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

**“JUSTICE” SYSTEM** Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail, and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

**DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS** Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly, and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

**PRISONER RIGHTS** End solitary confinement. End censorship of the *Militant*, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class

weapon in the hands of the rulers.

**FARMERS — WORKERS ALIES ON THE LAND** To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

*Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. A movement of millions can be built to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.*

*Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!*

The two socialist campaigners will join supporters in Pittsburgh July 19-21. In addition to campaigning in the region and speaking at a public event, they will help gather the final dozens of signatures to put Jarrett on the ballot.

The 2020 presidential election is well underway, with Joe Biden trending down and others rising as the over 20 Democrats jostling to represent the party against Donald Trump held their first debate. All of them — and Trump — claim they’re the best candidate to shore up and defend capitalist rule.

“Workers need an alternative, a fighting perspective and party of our own,” Kennedy said. A socialist and trade union fighter for more than 40 years, Kennedy is a member of the SWP National Committee. She was part of the first wave of women who got jobs as underground coal miners, helping break decades of discrimination and to strengthen working-class solidarity. Today she is a retail worker at Walmart in Dallas.

Jarrett, who works as a cook in Pittsburgh, has been building the party there, walking the picket line with members of the United Electrical Workers union during their strike against Wabtec in Erie, Pennsylvania, earlier this year.

“Working people know they can bring fights like this to the attention of our campaign, and together we can get the word out and help win solidarity,” said Jarrett.

Join the SWP campaigning! For more information about the candidates in your area, and future trips by Kennedy and Jarrett, see the directory on page 8.

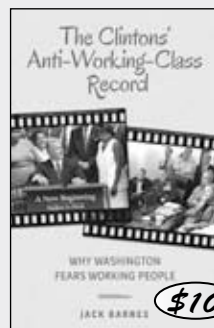
*Janice Lynn from Atlanta and Lea Sherman from New Jersey contributed to this article.*

## Recommended reading ...

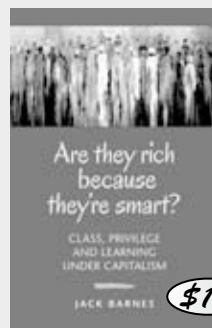
*“The purpose of education in class society is not to educate. The purpose of education is to give ‘the educated’ a stake in thinking they are going to be different — better off, more ‘white collar’ — than other people who work all their lives. It is not education. It is confusion and corruption.” —Jack Barnes, Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*



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# ‘Green New Deal’ is trap for workers

Continued from front page

— former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal, which subordinated workers’ interests to “national unity” in order to turn all the country’s resources to the victory of U.S. capital in the second imperialist world war.

Ocasio-Cortez churns out stories of Roosevelt, the New Deal and World War II as the high watermark of U.S. capitalist rule. It’s a lie. The truth can be found in the pages of the *Militant* for those years, from the *Northwest Organizer*, the paper of the militant SWP-led Teamsters union in Minnesota, and in books like *Labor’s Giant Step* by Art Preis.

Ocasio-Cortez’s proposal demands an “economic mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal,” which was preparation for the imperialist war. While Roosevelt and his backers said their aim was to “fight fascism,” in fact the rulers’ goal was for Washington to replace both its allies and enemies as top imperialist dog worldwide, the better to allow U.S. bankers and bosses to reap superprofits. And to accomplish this, Roosevelt planned to strangle the labor movement.

“When FDR called on America to build 185,000 planes to fight World War 2, every business leader, CEO, and general laughed at him,” the “talking points” for the Green New Deal Ocasio-Cortez released says. “At the time, the U.S. had produced 3,000 planes in the last year. By the end of the war, we produced 300,000 planes. That’s what we are capable of if we have real leadership.”

But “we” did no such thing. There is no “we” — like all capitalist countries, the U.S. is class divided, and government policies aim to advance the interests of the ruling families and make the working people pay.

## Roosevelt’s labor conscription bill

Without explaining it, Ocasio-Cortez points to what the Democrats’ New Deal had in store for the working class and their unions. She says her proposals “build on FDR’s second bill of rights.”

That was in Roosevelt’s 1944 State of the Union address, which came on the heels of the 1943 United Mine Workers strike — called in defiance of the federal no-strike “pledge” — and the Democratic administration’s unsuccessful effort to defeat the miners. In that speech, Roosevelt demanded Congress

enact a compulsory labor conscription bill (a “national service plan,” he genteelly called it).

“A national service law — which for the duration of the war, will prevent strikes,” Roosevelt said, “and, with appropriate exceptions, will make available for war production or any other essential service every able-bodied adult in this nation.”

The “exceptions” were intended for his class and their enablers.

Ocasio-Cortez sugarcoats the U.S. rulers’ anti-labor imperialist war policies. The Green New Deal states that Roosevelt’s war moves “created the greatest middle class that the United States has ever seen.”

The plan’s authors cite Washington’s massive war expenditures today, and bailouts extended to banks “too big to fail” in 2008, as examples of how the funds for the Green New Deal can be raised, “[T]he same way we paid for World War II and all our current wars.”

Their praise for the U.S. rulers’ victory in the second imperialist war to divide up the world for exploitation ignores the crimes inflicted on millions of people by the U.S. war machine, including the systematic firebombing of civilians in German and Japanese cities and the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## Do we need a bigger government?

The Green New Deal scheme is aimed at strengthening and expanding the capitalist state, building in more weapons to defend capitalist rule. It contains a series of reforms and concessions to make life more palatable for workers and family farmers who face the car-

nage from the crisis of capital today. The meritocrats proposing it see working people as needing their help to “do the right thing.”

Like Roosevelt’s New Deal, Ocasio-Cortez and other Democrats today view workers and farmers as the *objects* of government policies to be administered, rather than people who are not only capable of fighting to change the conditions the bosses and their governments impose on us, but to transform themselves through that fight to take political power.

The capitalist rulers are incapable of finding a way to reverse the crisis of their system today. Democrats present a false account of the New Deal to convince working people that something can be done to lessen the abuses we face by better “managing” the capitalist economy.

But it is only by relying on workers own capacities to struggle together against those who exploit us — the same bosses who degrade both labor and the environment — that working people can chart a course forward.

Replacing capitalist rule with workers power can make possible “social relations that are based on human soli-



Socialist Appeal/Carlo (Jesse Cohen)

Cartoon in *Socialist Appeal*, precursor of *Militant*, graphically shows how Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal developed into the war deal as U.S. rulers headed into second imperialist world war, fought for imperialist dominance.

arity and serve our interaction with and protection of the natural sources of all well-being and culture,” explains the SWP resolution “The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor,” published in *New International* no. 14. “What more powerful reason for workers, farmers and youth to commit their lives and futures to advancing the historic line of march of the international working class.”

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# UN committee backs independence for Puerto Rico

Continued from front page

posed on Puerto Rico by Washington in 2016 through a law cynically named PROMESA (Spanish for “promise”). The board has ordered colonial authorities to carry out attack after attack on the living standards of working people in order to pay the Puerto Rican government’s \$74 billion debt to capitalist bondholders.

“The fiscal control board’s decisions have meant brutal consequences for the people of Puerto Rico, especially the working class,” said Lorraine Liriano of A Call to Action on Puerto Rico, a pro-independence coalition in the U.S. She cited “the closure of more than 400 public schools, cuts in the University of Puerto Rico’s budget, slashing pensions of retired municipal workers, sale of public lands, the proposal to lower the minimum wage of youth under 26 to \$4.25 an hour.”

The board has virtually dictatorial powers, said María de Lourdes Santiago, vice president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party. “It decides on what laws will be enforced; it draws up and imposes the public budget” to prioritize paying the bondholders. Santiago added that Washington tries to disguise Puerto Rico’s colonial status with the term “commonwealth” or “free associated state,” but it’s the U.S. government that decides all important matters affecting working people there.

“Our debts are not ours, but those of the imperial power,” said Juan de Dios del Valle, speaking for Jornada por la Dignidad Boricua.

“We join with others to say: Cancel the

debt! All of it!” Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City public advocate, told the panel. He said that “a successful struggle for Puerto Rico’s independence will strengthen working people in the U.S. in the fight against our common exploiters.”

Galinsky pointed to Cuba’s socialist revolution as an example that working people are capable of organizing a revolutionary struggle to take state power, to establish a workers and farmers government, and in the process win real independence. (Galinsky’s statement was printed in last week’s *Militant*.)

## 2017 hurricane ‘recovery’ stalled

Several petitioners described the social disaster that was accelerated by the September 2017 hurricane. They condemned the neglect and contempt for working people by U.S. and colonial authorities, which resulted in the death of some 3,000 people.

Today, “recovery and reconstruction efforts remain stalled,” reported Nina Valedón. Some 30,000 Puerto Ricans still live in homes covered with tarps designed to last only a month because the federal government has not released the funds needed to repair roofs torn off by the hurricane, she said, not to mention those they say aren’t eligible. Valedón belongs to Alianza Patria, which backs the pro-Commonwealth Popular Democratic Party.

Two residents of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, Myrna Pagán of the Bieké Cultural Center and Michael Connelly Reyes of Vieques Lives Matter, testified that the local hospital was

closed after the hurricane and there isn’t even a maternity ward on the island.

Several speakers spoke about the tens of thousands who have migrated from Puerto Rico to the U.S. as a result of the economic catastrophe. Some argued that the migration was a result of a deliberate U.S. government policy to depopulate Puerto Rico. But in fact it’s the normal workings of capitalism and the superexploitation of working people there, exacerbated by U.S. colonial rule.

Despite efforts by the capitalist rulers and the big-business media to portray the Puerto Rican people as helpless victims, it was working people who came together to help each other and began to rebuild in the wake of the hurricane destruction, and of the U.S. and Puerto Rican capitalists’ criminal inaction and contempt.

Walter Alomar from the Organization for Culture of Hispanic Origins reported that he recently visited 15 of the closed schools in Puerto Rico. “Every abandoned school was guarded and cared for by the people of the community,” he said, in the face of government neglect.

“It wasn’t thanks to FEMA or federal funds,” said Wilma Reverón of the Hostos National Independence Movement. “Much of what is being restored now in Puerto Rico — agriculture, roofs, bridges, and roads — has mostly been the product of the work by communities, by the hands of Puerto Rican men and women.

“We are showing that we don’t need masters. We need solidarity,” Reverón said. “We need freedom in order to build our country.”

—**MILITANT  
LABOR  
FORUMS**—

## NEW JERSEY

### Union City

**The Socialist Workers Party 2019 New Jersey Campaign.** Speakers: Lea Sherman and Candace Wagner, SWP candidates for New Jersey General Assembly; Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for New York City Public Advocate. Sat., July 6. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 3600 Bergenline, suite 205B, 2nd floor. Tel.: (551) 257-5753.

—**CALENDAR**—

## CANADA

### Montreal

**Celebrate the Political Life of Joyce Meissenheimer.** Sat., July 20. Reception, 2 p.m.; program, 3 p.m. Centre St. Pierre, room 203 — Roger-Poirer. 1212 Panet. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

# Fight for workers control

Continued from front page

miles of the interstate was shut down for over an hour.

“We were very fortunate today,” Lt. Kevin McKinney of the Elko County Sheriff’s Office said. In 2004 a train carrying ammonium nitrate exploded in North Korea, killing at least 54 people and injuring over 1,000.

The near-disaster made many workers think of the July 2013 derailment and explosion of a 72-car oil train in Lac-Mégantic in Quebec, killing 47 people and levelling the center of the town.

There has been an increase in derailments, other “accidents,” and injuries and deaths of rail workers on North American railroads as the bosses push for more work assignments at a faster pace with less crew under anti-worker operating schemes like “precision scheduled railroading.” According to the Federal Railroad Administration, there have been 230 train derailments just through the end of May this year.

Many conductors and locomotive engineers see management’s first priority is shareholders’ returns as they ceaselessly grind on workers and equipment to maximize profits and stock value.

Workers are looking for ways to fight to defend themselves and those who live along the railroad right of way. “In my experience you can use the union to fight back,” Lance Anton, a BNSF Railway conductor and member of SMART-TD Local 0305, told the *Militant* June 27. “We recently pushed back the management here when they tried to shorten the training period for new workers.

“I support what the Socialist Workers Party raises in their program,” Anton said, “for trains with a maximum of 50 cars and a crew of four, two on the head end and two on the rear of the train. This is in the interest of all those who work the rails and working people who live near railroad tracks.”

Recently rail bosses ran a “test” of even longer, heavier trains, sending a 278-car coal train from the mines in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming to a power plant in Wisconsin. Over two and a half miles in length, it weighed 38,000 tons. This is an ominous precedent.

“It is not a ‘test’ anymore,” Anton

reported, “since this spring BNSF Railway is regularly running 250 plus car coal and grain trains in and out of the Lincoln terminal, a major crew changing point on the system.”

New budget decisions by rail bosses have targeted training, cutting the length of their schools for new hires. In fact it takes three to four years to acquire experience working in the many area switchyards, road jobs and where to “spot” rail cars at local industries. Rail workers know that the bosses book of “rules” is pulled out whenever there is any kind of accident to scapegoat the workers.

## Fight for workers control

Our union needs to fight for workers control of railroad training and operations, to fight for safe conditions and protect its members, and to extend that protection to those living, working or driving near the tracks.

For decades top union officials in North America have followed a course of class collaboration, looking to the Democrats and Republicans in state and federal government to pass laws setting a minimum crew size of two workers and other government regulations to slow down the bosses’ push for one- or no-person operations and automation.

Reliance on the legal system and government regulators not only doesn’t work, it does not prepare rail workers to use union power, and to reach out and win solidarity from other unionists and the working-class public — the only



Gerry Putz

**Coal train near Powder River Basin area of northeast Wyoming. BNSF bosses recently began running dangerously extra-long coal trains from Wyoming mines to Wisconsin. SWP program calls for trains with no more than 50 cars and crew of four, two on each end of the train.**

road to win a larger crew size, shorter trains and safe working conditions. Our own experience shows that looking to the rulers’ political parties and their government is a dead end, and it disarms us.

One recent example is the May 23 decision by the Federal Railroad Administration to withdraw a pending new rule that would have set a mandatory crew size of at least two for freight and passenger trains and to void all state laws and regulations that say the same. Our union had spent many hours and money to lobby for the larger crew. But the purpose of the FRA and similar government regulatory bodies is to protect the bosses and minimize the possibility of workers using the real power of the union — our

numbers in action — under the guise of being “impartial” in its deliberations.

That’s why workers need to develop our ability to fight in our own interest. The place to start today is to win our unions to a course to fight in the interests of the whole working class, by mobilizing union power, the only real strength we have.

More training for new hires is a modest start, but it is a start on the road to using union power in the interest of those workers on the railroad.

*Joe Swanson is a retired rail worker with 31 years’ experience. He lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and remains active in his union local.*

## Calif. Fresh Express workers walk out, win wage raise

BY BETSEY STONE

SALINAS, Calif. — Some 200 workers walked off the job here June 11 at Fresh Express, a large fruit and vegetable processing plant, after the company abruptly cancelled contract negotiations with Local 5 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, set for the next day.

The workers were advised by union officials to go back to work, citing a no-strike clause included in the extension of their old contract. This was met with a resounding, “No!”

The contract covering over 500 workers expired at the end of last year. Workers were demanding a \$3 an hour wage increase over three years, “no” to the company’s demand to double their medical insurance costs and that unsafe conditions be ended.

“If they crucify me for this, it doesn’t matter,” striker David Rangel, a loader at Fresh Express for 23 years, told the *Salinas Californian* while striking workers were gathered outside the plant. “This company has a lot of money. But we’ve been negotiating for

seven and a half months and there has been nothing for us. We have unsafe conditions at work. Forklifts for loading the product are 10 years old and don’t have parts.”

Two hours into the strike Fresh Express managers asked to resume negotiations and agreed to a two-year contract with a \$1 an hour yearly wage increase retroactive to January. The union reports that all the workers’ key issues were addressed.

“Workers outside the plant overwhelmingly approved the deal by a voice vote and returned to the job,” the union statement said.

The Salinas Valley is known for the large quantities of berries and vegetables grown here. Two years earlier, workers at nearby Taylor Farms, another big processing plant, walked out and rapidly won a \$1.50 an hour raise and another \$1 the following January. The initiative came from the workers themselves, but once the strike was underway Teamster union officials joined with workers to negotiate the pay hike.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco, led a team of supporters to knock on workers’ doors here June 30. Workers remembered the Taylor Farms strike and told Britton they supported the Fresh Express walkout.

Jorge, 42, who declined to give his last name, said he had worked at Fresh Express for a few months and now works at another food processing plant. “Sincerely, the equipment at Fresh Express was not in good condition, it was unsafe,” he said.

“Safe working conditions and other gains can only be won when we engage in actions like the Fresh Express workers did with their strike,” Britton said.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 11, 1994

BROOKLYN, New York — After less than two days on strike, 2,341 conductors, car repair workers, and track workers scored a victory in their contract fight with the Long Island Rail Road.

The four striking locals of the United Transportation Union forced the company to drop work rule changes sought by the railroad. The unionists also won an 8.5 percent wage increase over three years.

Union members expressed greater confidence in themselves after the settlement. Jerry Finn, a trainman, said, “I’m glad we stood up to the company. I’m glad that people got to see through the smokescreen that the union was holding people hostage through the strike, when it is in fact the company has been holding the workers hostage. When we go on strike it is the only time we learn that we’re so vital to the economy.”



July 18, 1969

The Kremlin-inspired Czech bureaucrats are nervous — and with good reason. For the power of the Czechoslovakian people to resist the current clampdown on democratization is beginning to demonstrate itself.

Following the recent government dissolution of the Czech student union, the metal workers had planned strikes in solidarity with the students. They were persuaded to call off the work stoppages at the last minute.

Nevertheless, an assembly of elected trade union delegates met and issued a declaration containing demands for an end to government encroachment on the independent role of the trade unions, termination of censorship of the union press, an end to increases in prices of necessities, opposition to “any suppression of our contacts with the union of the students,” and protests against bureaucratic practices by the national union leaders.



July 15, 1944

Alarmed by the prospect of post-war economic chaos which would strain the already weakened fabric of capitalist society to the breaking point, economic and financial experts of 45 Allied and Associated governments gathered in conference at Bretton Woods, N.H. on July 1 to discuss plans for currency stabilization and related problems.

Despite the efforts of the conferees to maintain an atmosphere of amiability, and to present the conference to the world as an example of genuine effort at “international cooperation,” the ugly reality of imperialist competition and rivalry breaks again and again through the brittle crust of polite speech-making.

What is actually going on is an intense if muted struggle between British and American capitalists for domination of the post-war world — with the British losing out to their powerful foes.



# Conference celebrates 100 years ‘on the right side of history’

## Socialist Workers Party campaigns for independent working-class political action

BY TERRY EVANS  
AND JOHN STUDER

“We’ll come out of this conference campaigning all across the country,” Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary, said at the close of the party-sponsored International Active Workers Conference held in Oberlin, Ohio, June 13-15. He pointed to opportunities today to use the party’s 2019 and 2020 election campaigns to spread the reach of its program and activity among working people in cities, towns and rural areas and to recruit new members.

Remember, Barnes said, “recruit” is an active verb. It’s something *we do*, not something we wait for workers and youth attracted to the party to do. The SWP is a little bigger this year, he added, and so is the conference.

“Celebrating 100 Years ‘On the Right Side of History,’” read the 20-foot-long banner above the stage. The conference marked the Socialist Workers Party’s centurylong continuity from the founding of the Communist Party in the U.S. in 1919. That anniversary banner was followed by another:

“Advancing along the Line of March of the Working Class

“Act on Imperialism’s Deepening Political Crisis

“Build the Labor Movement

“Build the Socialist Workers Party.”

As working people face the grinding effects of the capitalist rulers’ economic, political and moral crisis and their wars abroad, SWP candidates and campaign supporters call for independent working-class political action, Barnes said. They point to the necessity for working people to break with the bosses’ government and state, as well as their twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

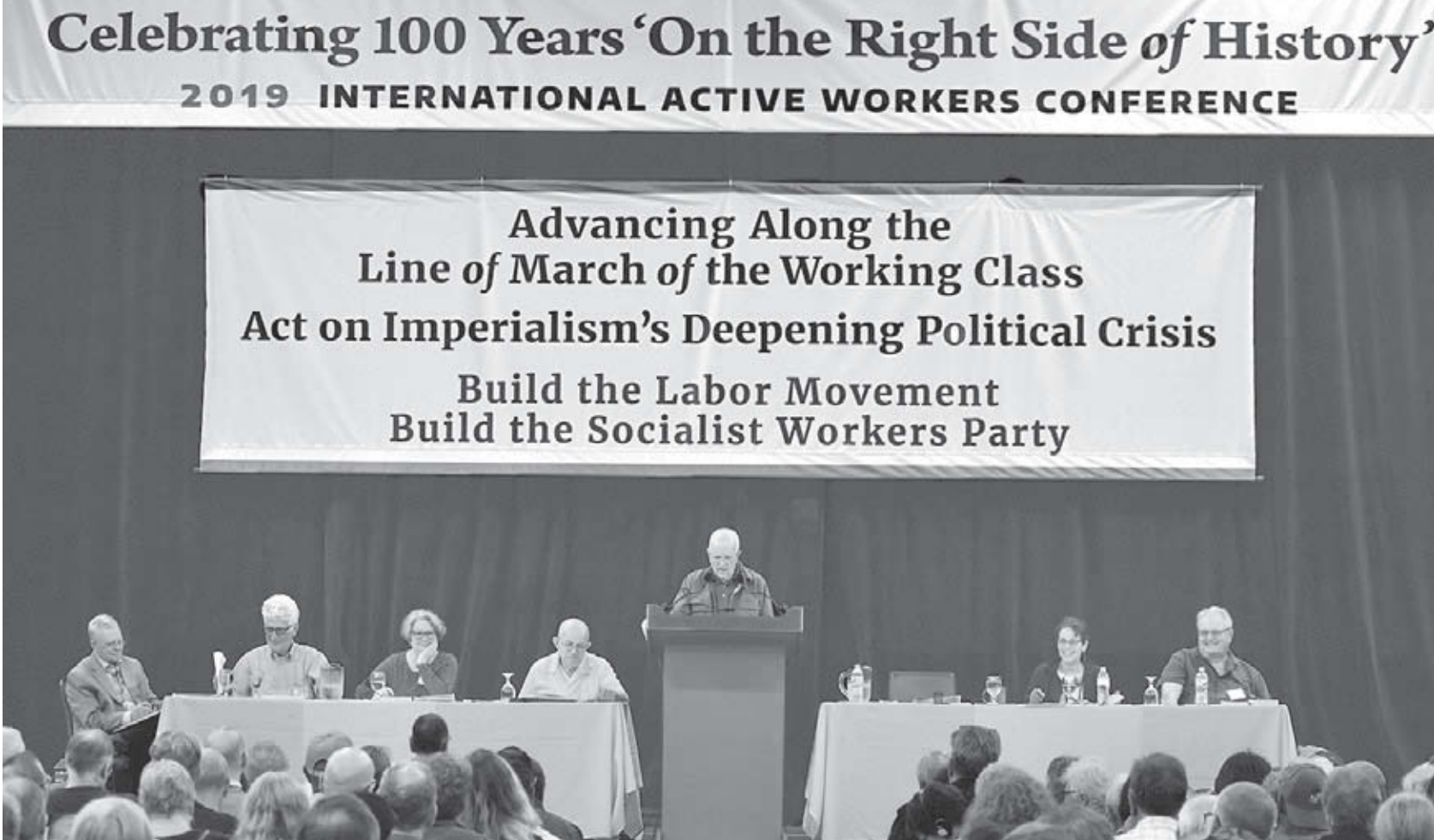
To give a boost to these working-class campaigns, the party’s National Committee, meeting right after the conference, put two SWP spokespersons on the road — Alyson Kennedy, its 2016 presidential nominee and mayoral candidate in Dallas earlier this year, and Malcolm Jarrett, the party’s candidate for Pittsburgh City Council. Equipped with books on revolutionary politics, the *Militant* newsweekly, and election flyers, they’ll join with campaign supporters across the U.S. to get out the party’s program at working people’s doorsteps and in the course of union and other social and political activity. (See article on front page.)

### A working-class line of march

Workers need to build our own political party, Barnes said, a party based in the working class and unions. A party with the aim of organizing and mobilizing workers and our allies to establish a workers and farmers government.

It was with that goal in mind that revolutionary-minded working people in the U.S. 100 years ago founded a new party to follow the example set by workers and peasants in Russia, who in October 1917 carried out the Bolshevik Revolution. For the first time in history, they established state power by the working class.

Some 30 conference displays graphically illustrated the SWP’s continuity in program and in action — from its



From left, John Studer, Dave Prince, Holly Harkness, Steve Clark, Jack Barnes (speaking), Mary-Alice Waters, Norton Sandler, at closing session of SWP conference June 15. Banners summarized continuity of Socialist Workers Party since 1919 founding of first communist party in U.S. and other Active Workers Conference themes.

birth as part of the Communist International in 1919, to the political developments and class battles that forged the party since. Especially significant was the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. The victory of the Cuban toilers and advance of their socialist revolution, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, Barnes said, helped win many current party leaders to the SWP and to the international movement to end class exploitation and oppression once and for all.

The capitalist rulers and their enablers in the professional and privileged middle classes try to convince working people we can’t be more than the objects of history. They tell us we’re better off submitting to rule by the “smarts” who know what’s best for us. But in the course of working-class struggle, Barnes said, we transform ourselves into the *makers* of history — and take our destiny into our own hands.

### Class independence v. Democrats

The packed three-day conference featured two reports; a number of classes and discussion sessions; a panel on the party’s work in the labor move-

ment and on the job, and another on SWP election campaigns; and a closing session to summarize the party’s perspectives and activity.

In his political report, “100 Years ‘On the Right Side of History,’” Barnes said that the SWP is the only party in the U.S. whose continuity as communists is unbroken. Other groups once claiming that continuity to the Bolsheviks tossed it aside — in deeds long ago, but more recently in words as well. Some, like the International Socialist Organization, have imploded and dissolved, with many ISO leaders and members going into the Democratic Party. Other organizations are well along the way.

The largest group calling itself socialist, the Democratic Socialists of America, never claimed a connection with communism or independent working-class political action. It traces its continuity to the late 1950s and striving to make real, in its own words, DSA founder “Michael Harrington’s vision of building a strong coalition among progressive trade unionists, civil rights and feminist activists and the ‘new politics’ left-liberals” in the Democratic Party.

These socialist Democrats are apparatchiks in the main party of U.S. imperialism. “We are a political and activist organization, not a party,” DSA says on its website. They’re fighting for a strong centralized state, so working people can “run both the economy and society democratically to meet human needs.”

But the state in the USA is — and can only be, short of the working class establishing its own power — a *capitalist state*. The course of the socialist Democrats, in fact, is one of mobilizing the U.S. population on a war footing to keep the working class at heel and preserve the power and reach of U.S. imperialism.

Nowhere is this clearer, Barnes said, than in the “Green New Deal” proposed by DSA member and Democratic Representative from New York

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and other Democrats. Claiming that imminent climate disaster and today’s jobs crisis require drastic action, she argues, as she did at an MSNBC “town hall” in March: “We’ve been here before with World War II, even the Cold War. And the answer has been an ambitious and directed mobilization of the American economy to direct and solve our problem, our biggest problem.”

The hero and model of the “Green New Deal” is Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who proposed what he called the New Deal to try to corral and defuse the mighty rise of labor in the 1930s, which posed a threat to capitalist rule. But as today’s backers of its hoped-for reincarnation admit, the New Deal only succeeded as it grew into the War Deal in the 1940s.

And, as Barnes explained and the Democrats do their best to cover over,



Militant photos: left, Carole Lesnick; above, Arthur Hughes  
Left, participants view some 30 displays depicting work and political lessons of communist movement. Above, participants snap up books and pamphlets by revolutionary leaders.

that, in turn, led to “the FBI Deal”—the indictment and imprisonment of leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Midwest Teamster leaders for their campaign in the labor movement to oppose U.S. government war aims and measures to hogtie the unions in the name of national unity.

The DSA’s orientation in the Democratic Party is a deadly threat to the working class, Barnes said.

The SWP’s class course is the polar opposite — to build the unions and root itself in the working class. To advance an independent working-class political course to replace the rule of the propertied families with a workers and farmers government — as the party’s forebears led working people in doing in Russia and Cuba.

### Proletarian orientation

Strengthening the leadership of the SWP’s work in the unions was a focus of the June gathering, as well as the party leadership meeting afterwards to implement conference perspectives.

The SWP made a turn to industry and the industrial unions in the mid-1970s in response to resistance by workers to the opening shots of today’s deepening world capitalist crisis. Drawing on experiences and lessons since the party’s founding, the turn was decisive to keep-

ing it on a proletarian course.

Members of the SWP’s trade union fractions are “always looking for openings to win other workers to join them visiting picket lines and at social protest actions,” said Mary Martin, a leader of the party’s union work, during the panel entitled, “Tribunes of the People and the Turn to Industry.”

“And we also carry out propaganda activity, selling the *Militant* and books by revolutionary leaders to co-workers, widening interest in the party’s program and campaigns.”

Kaitlin Estill, 27, from Oakland, California, who was at her first conference, told the *Militant* she got a lot out of the panel. “I want to use my capacities to be part of this fight,” she said. Estill joined the SWP after returning from this year’s May Day Brigade to Cuba and said she plans on joining one of the party’s trade union fractions. At its post-conference meeting, the SWP National Committee voted to organize a candidate for membership program to help involve new members in party activity and advance their political education.

The conference panel “Our Election Campaigns Lead the Party Outward,” was organized and chaired by SWP National Campaign Director John Studer. Party candidates described how they use the party’s program as they and their campaign supporters talk with other working people about the political questions we confront today. That includes explaining demands for a single union for yellow cab, Uber, and other drivers; the fight for workers control of production in face of bosses’ disregard for life and limb in their drive for profits; and an amnesty for undocumented immigrants to strengthen the fight to organize all workers into unions and overcome divisions sown by the employers.

During this year’s Dallas mayoral campaign, said panelist Alyson Kennedy, she and other SWP members there responded to a failed Washington-backed coup in Venezuela by organizing and building a street protest demanding “U.S. hands off Venezuela and Cuba!” Today, she said, we need to be ready to do the same demanding “U.S. hands off Iran!”

### Fight for women’s emancipation

SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters gave a well-attended class on “Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women’s Emancipation.” Pointing to the historic working-class course in this struggle, she quoted Frederick Engels, a founder

of the communist movement. “True equality between men and women can become a reality,” Engels wrote, “only when the exploitation of both by capital has been abolished and private work in the home has been transformed into a public industry.”

Many conference participants had recently joined tens of thousands at protests across the U.S. determined to defend abortion rights in face of mounting government assaults. “Our demand for family planning, including the right of women to choose abortion is unconditional,” Waters said. She contrasted the party’s decadeslong record in this fight to the stance of middle-class meritocratic layers, who disdain working people with large families and advocate forms of population control.

For many women the decision whether or not to have an abortion is complex, Waters said. A medical procedure is nobody’s first choice as a form of birth control. Every abortion is the result of conditions forced on women by capitalism — lack of easy and affordable access to contraception, to family planning programs, to adequate and available medical care.

As part of building the labor movement and advancing the struggle for socialism, Waters said, the SWP actively joins in the needed discussion and debate, explaining why access to family planning, including abortion rights, is a precondition to the fight to end women’s second-class status under capitalism.

### Act on imperialism’s deepening crisis

In his conference presentation “The Middle East and the Jewish Question: Acting on the Communist Program,” SWP National Committee member Steve Clark said that at times of deepening economic and social crisis, the rulers foment Jew-hatred with deadly results — genocidal results, in fact, fewer than 80 years ago. A course to advance

working-class interests cannot be charted, he said, without defending the right of Israel to exist and the right of Jews to seek refuge there.

Clark pointed to statements by Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro in 2010, highlighting the unique character of Jew-hatred. “I don’t think anyone has been slandered more than the Jews,” Castro said, adding, “There is nothing that compares to the Holocaust.”

Clark urged conference participants to study the party’s statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel” and use it widely with workers and youth they meet in the U.S. and the world over.

He also addressed the U.S. rulers’ brutal sanctions bearing down on working people in Iran, as well as Washington’s war threats in recent months. “We have to be ready to act decisively to mobilize opposition if U.S. military action of any kind is taken against Iran,” Clark said.

Other conference classes included “Proletarian Revolution and Materialism: Science vs. Anti-science Is a Class Question,” “The Worker-Farmer Alliance and Our Communist Program,” “Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power: What We Learned from the Bolsheviks and the Comintern,” and “The Communist Course and Leadership of Thomas Sankara.”

The day after the conference, party supporters met to discuss the next steps in their work — organizing all aspects of the printing and distribution of Pathfinder books by party leaders and other revolutionaries.

In response to an appeal at the conference, participants contributed \$42,947 to a Summer 2019 Party-Building Appeal that runs through July 26. If you’d like to kick in, send a check made out to the SWP to 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

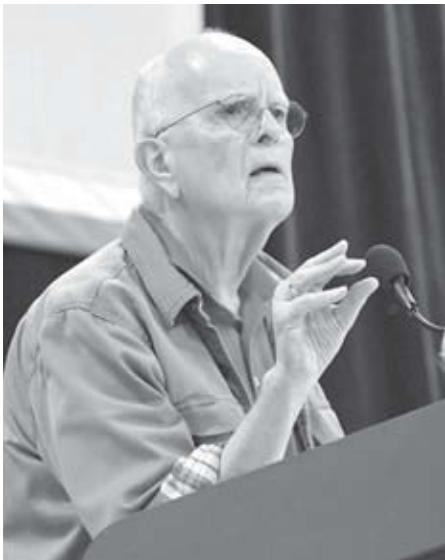
## For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

• For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act

• For workers’ solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

Socialist Workers Party statement

Download ready to print flyer at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)



Militant/Arthur Hughes  
Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary, speaking at this year’s Active Workers Conference.

### For further reading

**Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions**  
*Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Farrell Dobbs, Jack Barnes*  
“A tribune of the people reacts to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears.” A companion to *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, both by Jack Barnes.

**The Jewish Question**  
*by Abram Leon*  
As he wrote this classic Marxist account of the origins of Jew-hatred and the fight against it, Leon was also a communist active in distributing internationalist flyers to German occupation troops. He paid with his life in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

**The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State**  
*by Frederick Engels*  
“True equality between men and women can become a reality only when the exploitation of both has been abolished.”

See distributors on page 8 or visit:  
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# Oberlin says its smears of bakery were just ‘students free speech’

BY SETH GALINSKY

Oberlin College President Carmen Twillie Ambar and other officials have launched a media blitz to falsely portray the June 7 verdict by a Lorain County jury as a dangerous attack on free speech. The jury found the college guilty of maliciously trying to “permanently harm and damage” Gibson’s family-run Oberlin bakery by promoting false statements that the business and its owners are racist.

The jury awarded the Gibson’s \$44 million in compensatory and punitive damages, considerably higher than state regulations usually permit. The judge lowered the award to a still substantial \$25 million. A hearing on fees for the Gibson’s lawyers is set for July 10.

Ambar began a whirlwind media tour at the end of June, holding a press conference, contacting alumni and giving interviews to CBS News, NPR Radio, *Newsweek* and the *Wall Street Journal*. She denied that the college had smeared the Gibsons or was guilty of anything and discounted the jury’s decision, claiming “this is a First Amendment case about whether an institution can be held liable for the speech of its students and the actions of its students,” she told NPR.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Gibson’s lawsuit wasn’t directed at free speech or the right to protest, but at actions and slanders carried out by Oberlin College officials.

The dispute began when some students, encouraged by college officials, began protests outside the store, falsely claiming its owners had a long history of “racial profiling,” after three Black students were arrested for attempting to shoplift two bottles of wine from the bakery on Nov. 9, 2016, and assaulting Allyn Gibson, grandson of the owner, who tried to stop them. They later pled guilty to misdemeanor charges and acknowledged that Gibson’s response was not racially motivated.

College officials printed and helped distribute flyers for the smear campaign

and cancelled the bakery’s contract with the campus dining services for two months, and again after the lawsuit was filed. Guides for official campus tours advised prospective students and their families not to shop at Gibson’s because it is a “racist establishment” that “assaults students.” The college even positioned construction equipment to block a parking lot owned by Gibson’s. The bakery has done business with the college for 100 years.

In response to the college’s attempt to reframe the case “as a First Amendment issue,” Gibson’s lawyers released a 56-page FAQ June 28 that demolishes Ambar’s twisting of the facts.

“Even after the jury’s verdict,” the lawyers said, “the college refuses to take responsibility for its actions.”

The FAQ consists of evidence introduced at the trial — emails, letters and testimony from current and former Oberlin College employees, alumni and town residents. These documents demonstrate the arrogance and scorn for anyone who disagrees with them by Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo and other college officials in the face of attempts by many individuals to get the college to reverse course. From this evidence it’s not hard to see why the jury ruled that the college acted with malice.

One example? Oberlin College employee Emily Crawford was told by college Vice President for Communications Ben Jones in a Nov. 11, 2016, email that the police report on the shoplifting and arrests “is bullshit.” He then asked her “what are you hearing in your recon?”

Crawford replied that “the students are on the wrong side of this protest, they acted without ascertaining the facts first.” She told Jones that “I have talked to 15 townie friends who are poc [people of color] and they are disgusted and embarrassed by the protest.”

“To them this is not a race issue at all and they do not believe the Gibsons are racist.”

The response from Tita Reed, an assistant to the Oberlin president? “Doesn’t change a damned thing for me.”

Three days later then-college President Marvin Krislov emailed Reed that students are talking about urging the college to stop buying anything from Gibson’s. Reed responds, “That’s

## 1,000 in Australia rally for right to abortion



Militant/Janet Roth

SYDNEY — Over 1,000 supporters of women’s right to choose abortion marched through the central city here June 9 amid a sea of homemade signs. They chanted, “my body, my choice” and “our bodies, our rights.”

The action was initiated by high school student Bella Ziade both in solidarity with protests in the U.S. against several states there passing harsh new restrictions on access to abortion and to demand that women’s right to abortion be legalized here in the state of New South Wales. “We’re demanding to be treated as human beings with fundamental human rights,” Ziade told demonstrators.

Abortion is only lawful in New South Wales if a doctor determines that continuing a pregnancy would be harmful to the woman. Any other abortion is illegal under the Crimes Act, and both the woman and the person administering the procedure are liable for up to 10 years in prison. While abortion is not listed as a crime in other Australian states, there are time limits and other restrictions on access that make it difficult to have the procedure.

“At our school we’re told about contraception but not about abortion,” Hallie Stubbs told the *Militant*. She introduced two fellow students, Lucy Bradnum and Alex Ley, who came with her to the protest. “There are all sorts of situations that women might face when they get pregnant and they shouldn’t be forced to give birth. We’re outraged by what’s happening in the U.S.”

“Women used to die from illegal abortions, by using coat hangers and other unsafe methods,” Ley added. “We want to make it completely legal here.”

— JANET ROTH

a great bargaining chip,” and the college does so.

Amber also ignores the testimony from several witnesses at the trial that Dean Raimondo spoke at the Nov. 10 protest and handed out flyers calling Gibson’s “a RACIST establishment with a LONG ACCOUNT of RACIAL PROFILING and DISCRIMINATION.”

The class disdain of Oberlin College officials — by far the largest business in town — towards the family-run bakery led them to underestimate the support that working people in the area would show the bakery owners. Many Oberlin residents displayed signs in

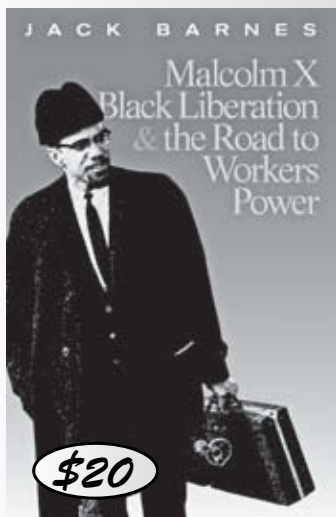
support of Gibson’s, and others, outraged by the slanders and the boycott, mobilized to shop there. But the out-sized weight of the college meant the bakery lost business.

David Gibson wrote in an op-ed in *USA Today* June 21 that the family decided to file the suit after his father told them, “In my life I’ve done everything I could to treat all people with dignity and respect. And now, nearing the end of my life, I’m going to die being labeled as a racist.”

The victory won by the family against the college is a gain for all working people.

## Recommended reading

“The meritocracy are mortified to be identified with working people. They fear someday being ruled by those they worry could become the ‘great mob’: the toiling and producing majority.” —Jack Barnes



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# Join SWP on ‘right side of history’

The 2020 U.S. elections — with 16 months to go — are front-page news, as incumbent Donald Trump and some two dozen Democratic wannabes pound away at each other. All these Democratic and Republican politicians, whether self-proclaimed socialists, liberals or conservatives, share one key thing in common — a commitment to defend dog-eat-dog capitalist rule.

The interests of working people are irreconcilable with the interests of the capitalist class who depend on exploiting us. Competition with their rivals continually drives them to attack our wages and working conditions and to send us to fight and die in wars over markets and resources. They work hard to keep us divided and to convince us to vote for whichever party — the Democrats or Republicans — appears as the lesser evil. The two-party system is set up to preserve the interests of the class that exploits working people at home and abroad. There *is* no “lesser” evil.

The Socialist Workers Party fights for an opposite course. Its candidates for office in 2019 tell the truth — that all politics reflects the class struggle, and working people have common class interests and need to fight side by side. We point to the lessons of past working-class struggles and our revolutionary continuity. To ef-

fectively combat what working people face we need to organize and act independently of the bosses’ parties. We need our own working-class party!

The SWP’s slate of candidates presents a program to fight to change the conditions workers face in the only way that is possible — by challenging capitalist rule. They speak out against all instances of tyranny and oppression and join in fighting to change them.

By recognizing and acting on our capacity to struggle, the SWP campaign presents demands to increase the unity, courage and self-confidence of working people. It explains why workers need our own foreign policy to oppose the wars, military threats and sanctions imposed with bipartisan support by the U.S. imperialist rulers. They point to the revolution made by working people in Cuba in 1959 — still living today — as an example for how working people here can wrest power from the capitalist rulers, establish a workers and farmers government and join in the fight for a world free of exploitation and discrimination.

Only the Socialist Workers Party candidates present a realistic course to end the carnage capitalism creates. Join in campaigning with the SWP! It’s truly a life “on the right side of history” — a life worth living.

## G-20 reveals ‘liberal world order’ coming apart

**Continued from front page**

them, despite pretensions of global economic cooperation. These conflicts illustrate the crisis wracking capitalist production and trade today. The final G-20 statement said that global growth was “low,” with geopolitical risks “tilted to the downside.”

The post-World War II imperialist world order is slowly but surely being torn apart by the workings of capitalism itself.

At the gathering, President Donald Trump met on the sidelines with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and afterwards traveled to the North Korean border to meet with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea leader Kim Jong Un. Stalled trade talks with Beijing were resurrected, and talks with the DPRK over nuclear disarmament put back on the table.

The U.S. capitalist class is using its unequaled economic weight — the size of its domestic market, the centrality of its financial system and the ever-present U.S. dollar as the world’s reserve currency — to protect its exploitative global domination against continuing decline. Even though the dollar’s share of global foreign exchange has slipped since the financial crisis a decade ago, it is still 62%, dwarfing all rivals.

In his G-20 address June 29, Xi, in a veiled reference to the Trump administration’s escalation of tariffs, denounced protectionism by rich countries as “destroying the global trade order.”

Trump says the “globalized” economic order has aided the rise of Chinese capitalism in recent decades to the detriment of U.S. capitalism. Trump and Xi met over lunch at the G-20 to restart bilateral trade talks. The U.S. president agreed to lift his threat of new duties on \$300 billion of Chinese goods not currently hit by 25% tariffs. He also lifted a ban on U.S. companies selling high-tech parts to Chinese telecom giant Huawei, part of a broader battle over market share between Chinese and U.S. tech bosses and their state backers.

In return, Xi promised to buy more U.S. agricultural goods. Just before the meeting, Beijing ordered an additional half a million tons of U.S. soybeans. The two presidents agreed to hold further talks. Stocks and futures markets rallied on the news, and China’s currency, the renminbi, strengthened.

Since the end of the second world war, the U.S. rulers have been the top imperialist world power — including in the Pacific. The Chinese capitalist rulers are expanding rapidly today, setting up military bases throughout the Western Pacific, reaching into new markets internationally and developing a more advanced army and navy.

In the absence of a revolutionary working-class upsurge, the Chinese capitalists look to the future and see themselves as the inevitable new top dog.

As the conference was taking place, the confrontation pitting Beijing and its ally Hong Kong Chief

Executive Carrie Lam against millions of working people in Hong Kong continued to play out. On July 1, the 22nd anniversary of the handover of the British colony to China, hundreds of thousands marched in the streets, calling for the pro-Beijing government to resign. A few hundred protesters occupied and trashed Hong Kong’s legislature, clashing with police. This gave Beijing an unaccustomed chance to pose as a guardian of “the rule of law.”

### Mass protests continue in Hong Kong

The Chinese rulers blamed unnamed foreign countries for the unrest, while admitting the huge marches were a “blatant challenge” to Beijing’s rule. But what they really fear is the “interference” of the class struggle from within, a fear shared by rival ruling classes around the world.

Following the G-20 summit, Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to visit North Korea June 30. He stepped across the line in a surprise meeting with Kim at the heavily fortified zone dividing the peninsula. South Korean President Moon Jae-in joined them for a brief but unprecedented address to the press.

Despite massive devastation inflicted on the Korean people following the U.S. rulers’ seizure of southern Korea at the end of World War II, and in the North during the 1950-53 Korean War, U.S. imperialism failed to crush the workers and peasants government that arose out of the 1946 revolution in the North. Ever since, Washington has refused to sign a peace treaty.

Achieving a drawdown of nuclear weapons on the peninsula would be a gain for all working people.

### Continued conflict in Middle East

Nowhere are the instabilities tearing apart the old imperialist world order more apparent than in the Middle East. The White House threatened military retaliation after an Iranian missile downed a U.S. drone June 20. New troop reinforcements were sent to reinforce Washington’s already massive military presence in the region, and the U.S. rulers tightened their harsh sanctions that have increased the economic burden on Iranian working people.

Trump told the press June 28 he’s in “no rush” to ease tensions with Iran. On July 1 Tehran announced they have reached the 660 pound “limit” for stocks of enriched uranium set by the 2015 nuclear deal abandoned by Washington. The capitalist rulers in Iran are seeking to pressure France, Germany and Britain, who also signed the treaty, to find a way to engage in trade, offering relief from Washington’s sanctions. The European rulers said they would be “patient” with Tehran, the *Wall Street Journal* reported July 3.

The Israeli rulers, however, responded to Tehran’s move with air strikes July 2 from Lebanese airspace on Iranian-linked military bases in Syria.

## Back ‘Militant’ fight

**Continued from front page**

Florida prison officials want to squelch articles on the book *Solitary: My Story of Transformation and Hope* and related speaking tour by Albert Woodfox, who spent more than 40 years in solitary confinement in the notorious Angola prison in Louisiana. They claim these and articles reporting on the *Militant*’s campaign to win support for the fight against censorship “encourage activities which could lead to physical violence” or otherwise present a threat to the “security, good order or discipline” of the prison.

The *Militant* notes that nothing in prison rules authorize “prison officials to censor a newspaper merely because it reports on prison conditions or prisoners, or because such reporting is supportive of prisoner rights and contains criticism of prison conditions.”

The appeal includes a chilling appendix, prepared with the help of the Florida American Civil Liberties Union, of dozens of articles from the *Miami Herald* reporting on brutality in Florida prisons.

The articles include wide coverage of the killing of inmate Darren Rainey, who was punitively locked up in a scalding-hot shower for nearly two hours by guards at the Dade Correctional Center. The *Herald*’s reporting, part of a three-year investigation into the abuse and deaths of prisoners in Florida prisons, received awards.

A number of prisoner-subscribers reported to the *Militant* that the *Herald* and other “mainstream” papers have never been banned from the prison. All the evidence points to Florida officials “selectively banning the *Militant* because of its viewpoints,” Goldstein notes, which is unconstitutional.

Many prison subscribers agree.

### ‘Keep up the righteous fight’

“I’ve filed an appeal notice,” one prisoner, who just got out of solitary confinement, wrote. “I’ll be contesting this latest rejection. I want it to be known “that it’s nothing I read in the papers that cause me to react.”

It’s the conditions in the prison itself that are the problem, he said. The solitary confinement units “don’t have the proper cooling system. The water don’t work along with a lot of other inhumane conditions.”

“Keep the righteous fight up,” he writes.

*Militant* editor John Studer and this correspondent attended the American Library Association convention in Washington, D.C., June 22-23. The Office for Intellectual Freedom of the ALA and the Freedom to Read Foundation are signers on a letter from the National Coalition Against Censorship that calls on Florida prison officials to overturn the ban on the *Militant*.

A number of the 18,000 participants, including some prison librarians, took information on the *Militant*’s fight and said they would get it out to others back home. One reported Woodfox’s book is available in prison libraries in Colorado and other states.

At a workshop on “Censorship Beyond Books” attended by some 200 conference participants, this correspondent got a round of applause when he spoke in the discussion to thank the American Library Association for its support and about the importance of standing up to prison censorship and defending the right of prisoners to read material of their choosing.

Amnesty International USA, the National Lawyers Guild and the ACLU of Florida have also sent letters calling on Florida officials to overturn the bans.

“Readers of the *Militant* can play an important role in advancing the fight against prison censorship,” Studer said July 2. “Getting a group of co-workers to write and sign a letter may seem like a small thing, but it can have an impact. Now is a good time to step up this work.”

### Fight prison censorship!

**Get out the word:** Download, print and distribute *Militant* articles on this fight.

**Getsupportstatements** from co-workers, unions, churches and defenders of political rights. Email to: Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com. Send copies to themilitant@mac.com

**Send checks** to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, for “Prisoners Rights Fight.” **Or contribute online at themilitant.com**